



MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents and Principals

FROM: Wes Bruce, Chief Assessment Officer
Indiana Department of Education

DATE: April 20, 2011

SUBJECT: ISTEP+ Security

In light of the most significant security breach in ISTEP+ history and with the multiple-choice portion of ISTEP+ just over a week away, I wanted to update you on the steps that have been taken to further tighten security for Indiana's assessment system. On Wednesday, April 5, the Indiana State Board of Education authorized the process to formally adopt rules and sanctions specific to test security. These rules will make even clearer the responsibilities of every person involved in the testing process and the consequences for individuals, schools and corporations who violate these standards of practice.

In addition we have asked our ISTEP+ vendor to perform an "erasure" analysis on both the paper and online versions of the test. This analysis will look for statistically significant rates of changes in student responses from wrong to right as one indicator of possible testing irregularities.

The violation in test security that occurred in March cannot be repeated; the actions of a few cannot be allowed to jeopardize the fair and valid assessment of Indiana's students.

As always, you can email me at wbruce@doe.in.gov or call me at 317-232-9054.